[137 cont.]

Caption for Fig. 62.

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Fig. 62. Arrows. Nos. 1-6 wooden points, Nos. 7-42 bone points (R.-J.-M. 3825, 3826, 3829, 3830, 3827, 3828, 3794, 11361, 3817, 3708, 3813, 21148, 3785, 3746, 3786, 21149, 3718, 21153, 3717, 3741, 11360, 3758, 3738, 3749, 3712, 3791, 3735, 21150, 3732, 3747, 3836, 21157, 11358, 3838, 21158, 3782, 11363, 21156, 21154, 3765, 3761, 3768; Joest Coll., 8, 21, 33, and 37, donated by Weiler, 12, 16, 18, 28, 32, 35, 38, and 39 Klaatsch Coll.); total length of arrows 110-122 cm., length of illustrated sections 57 1/2-69 cm. The shafts resemble those of the bird arrows in Fig. 30. Some, for example, 9, 10, and 30, show scraping of the knots of the tubes, colored black.

[138 cont.]

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[171] In their way of fighting, the inhabitants of the Santa Cruz Islands differ essentially from all the other Melanesians who use the bow and arrow. Among all the others, war consists essentially of jungle-fighting from ambush; open conflict is avoided if possible, and bravery is a rare virtue. Now this very characteristic is attributed to the Ndeni Islanders to a high degree. Seven natives engaged in battle against a Spanish troop, and only after six had been killed did the last one flee. They never lost courage in the face of Spanish fire, but sought to protect themselves by copying the Spanish shields, which, along with the coats of mail, they soon recognized as the sole causes of the invulnerability of their opponents; they quickly learned to direct their well-aimed shots against the exposed parts of the Spaniards' bodies (4).

● [152]

[177]

4. Dalrymple, p. 83.

[138 cont.]
More recent authors also give evidence concerning the courage of the Santa Cruz Islanders, who were in the habit of shooting their arrows in volleys (5). According to Mendana, the villages

5. Carteret, p. 351. Markham, p. 145.

communicated at night by means of fire signals if danger threatened; during the day boats traveled from place to place. As the danger approached, all the members of the tribe brought their possessions to the chief's village for safekeeping. Mendana mentions that once 50 boats with hidden weapons assembled at one place, apparently for a planned expedition against the enemy (6). Shortly before the beginning of the battle, Markham

6. Dalrymple, p. 82.

reports, a warning cry sends the women into hiding in the bush. A Homeric battle of words is the prelude to battle on Vanikoro. During the fighting on Ndeni the opponents make as much noise as possible, and each individual is in constant dance-like motion, which of course makes it considerably harder for the opponent to hit him. In the battle described by Markham, which lasted about half an hour, there were only two or three [139] persons wounded, but from what has been said about the manner of fighting and the courage of the natives, it can be assumed that the battles are often bloodier (1). In Vanikoro the Teve

1. Markham, pp. 161 ff. D'Urville, pp. 159, 172; 354 (Sainson). Markham, p. 145, speaks of a war dance in Nukapu before any kind of hostilities were begun. The interpretation is doubtful, however.

people claimed that they killed nine men in a recent fight. Mercy is not shown there during the fight; the wives and